7-4/A S, HOOVER 3/07/01

PATENT 450100-02736

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Makoto YAMADA et al.

Filed

Herewith

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 6, line 2, delete "or 3";

Claim 7, line 2, delete "or 2".